

# ***E-Gov Travel on the Move***

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**April, 2006**

## **The Future Business Trip is Here**

February 6, 2006, front page of the Federal Times newspaper reads, *Two years later, managers say E-Gov Travel delivers on promise*. Travel managers from across the federal government were interviewed and Federal Times reports ‘they (travel managers) are seeing benefits from E-Gov Travel, which has automated and simplified much of the work they used to do, allowing them more time for other pressing duties – searching for travel card fraud, for example, or improving travel policies’.

When the President’s Management Agenda, Quicksilver task force recommended in 2002 that travel management could be improved government-wide, their directive was, ‘Existing travel management resources will be consolidated and processes will be simplified for a cheaper, more efficient operation’. With a totally new approach being recommended for managing federal travel, the question was could it be pulled off, could transformation really happen?

“We knew the Web was going to have a positive impact on how federal travelers managed their trips. Two years ago we estimated 45% online usage, now that we are seeing numbers over 70% at some agencies we are confident travelers are comfortable with the service and the cost savings is being realized,” explains Timothy Burke who oversees the program at GSA.

Online utilization is not the only advantage ETS provides. Government Computer News reported March 10, 2006 that Tim Young, associate administrator of e-government and IT said at FOSE “by implementing an E-Gov Travel system, Labor is reducing its voucher costs for travel expenses—booking flights, hotels, and other travel-related expenses—by more than 60 percent. But more importantly, Young said, is that the real savings from E-Gov Travel come in time, not money. Before E-Gov Travel, Labor processed travel vouchers in 10 days; however, with E-Gov Travel, he said it only takes the agency three days”.

## **The FedRooms rate and the “government” rate are not the same**

FedRooms is the official government-wide, government-approved lodging program created to make federal travel easier. Rooms at the FedRooms rate can be found at leading hotels, and meet all per diem and FEMA requirements. Plus, the program ensures protection from hidden fees frequently attached to unmanaged rates. But travelers have to ask for the FedRooms rate by name—the hotel’s “government” rate doesn’t give the same guarantees.

Travelers can book online, through their TMCs, at [fedrooms.com](http://fedrooms.com) or by calling the hotel directly, and ask for the FedRooms rate. A rate by any other name is simply not the same.

The FedRooms rate. Ask for it by name.

## **KUDOS**

Cynthia Jones, E-Gov Travel Migration Manager at the U.S. Department of Labor writes, "I want to take an opportunity to express our appreciation for the work performed by Tim Switzer in his role as DOL's CWGT account manager. Tim works hard in helping DOL's E-Gov Travel Team in deploying ETS and is always accommodating in terms of meeting and presentation requests. In addition Tim works well with all of our team and is committed and dedicated to our mutual goal of a successful ETS implementation.

I would also like to acknowledge the training skills of CWGT's Greg Bolden, who has been training DOL staff members on ETS for several months. Greg is a personable, knowledgeable and outstanding trainer and we've received consistent good evaluations for the classes that he's conducted. Arnold Scott, who has joined Greg this week in training DOL employees, is also a very good and our employees have thoroughly enjoyed his training style.

### **NBC Hosts a "Virtual" Celebration**

January 31, 2006 the National Business Center (NBC), cross servicing entity of the Department of the Interior, hosted a "virtual" celebration to thank those involved with the successful end-to-end deployment of ETS at Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC). Team members from both agencies and NBC celebrated simultaneously in Alexandria VA, Denver CO and El Paso TX via a satellite feed. The one thing they could not handle "virtually" was the cake. There were three.

NBC selected the CWGT service, E2 Solutions, as their ETS solution in June 2004. Currently NBC has fifteen federal agencies as ETS customers. Danielle Camesi, NBC ETS Migration Manager, reported that FCC was the first to go end-to-end (online booking through to their financial interface) with a pilot in December 2006. The entire agency is due to be installed by September 2006. IBWC followed in January 2006 with the entire agency being deployed end-to-end. Camesi attributes the successful deployment to "the dedication of the people involved".

### **National Travel Forum 2006, a Star Studded Event!**

Mark your calendars for the National Travel Forum, 2006, ***Where the Travel Stars Shine***, being held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, June 26-29.

The National Travel Forum calendar of events and workshops are now posted at [www.nationaltravelforum.org](http://www.nationaltravelforum.org). For more information on the forum call 1-800-315-4333 or email [help@nationaltravelforum.org](mailto:help@nationaltravelforum.org).